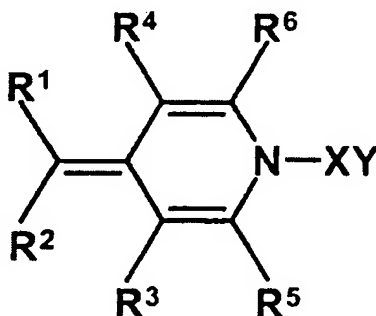


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A compound ~~Compounds~~ of the general formula I



wherein

R¹ and R² are each a cyano group,

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups, or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl groups,

X is has an alkyl, ~~alkylaryl or alkyl cycloalkyl~~ group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms, and comprising alkylphenyl, alkylcycloalkyl, phenyl, or alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl in which the alkyl group of the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl is interrupted by 1-3 hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of O and N, and the alkyl interrupted by said 1-3 hetero atoms optionally

has from one to three hydroxy functional groups, and X further has at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged wherein said group is selected from the group consisting of a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary ammonium amine group, -O-SO₃⁻, -COO⁻, -O-PO₃H⁻, -O-PO₃⁻², -SO₃⁻, -PO₃H⁻, and -PO₃⁻², and X has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 1 to 10 hetero atoms, and

Y is a counterion selected from the group consisting of a quaternary ammonium ion, an alkali metal ion, an alkali earth metal ion, a triethanol ammonium ion, an aminomethylpropanol ion, a tris(trimethamine) ion, and a halogen ion.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X ~~contains~~ has from 1 to 6 hetero atoms.

5. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the 1-10 hetero atoms are each selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and phosphor atoms.

6. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged has one positive charge.

7. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 6, wherein the at least one group which has one positive charge is a quaternary ammonium group.

8. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 7, wherein Y is a halogen atom ion.

9. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group which is positively or negatively charged has one negative charge.

10. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 9, wherein the at least one group which has one negative charge is selected from the group consisting of -COO^- , -O-SO_3^- , and $\text{-O-PO}_3\text{H}^-$.

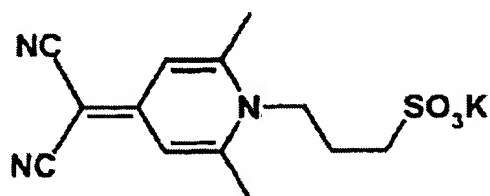
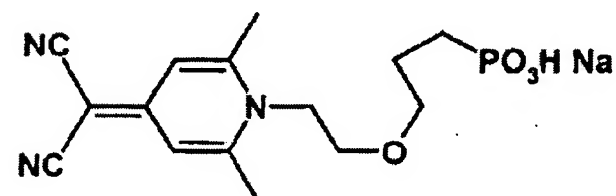
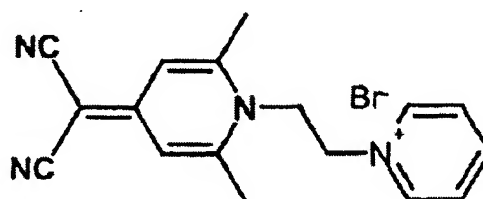
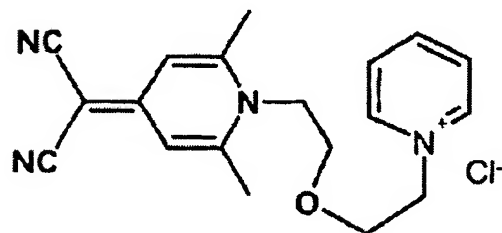
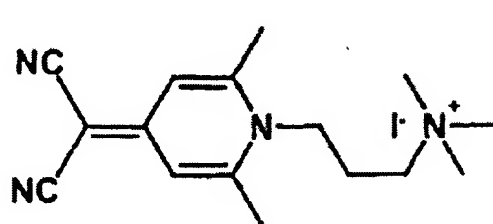
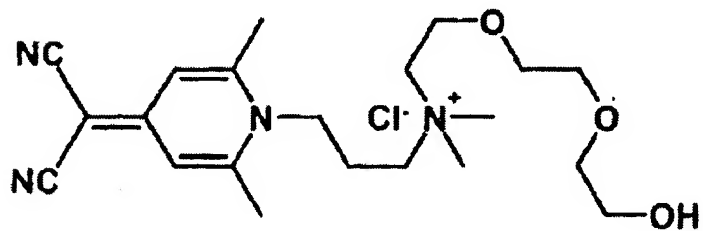
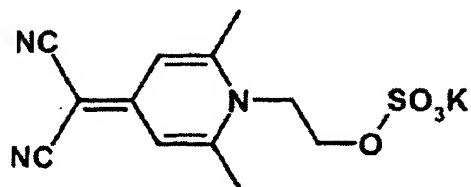
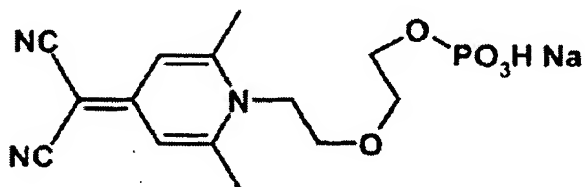
11. (Canceled).

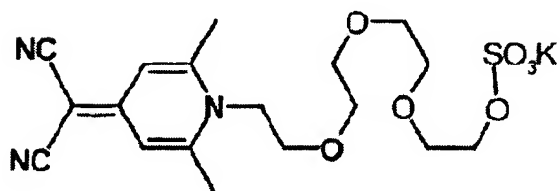
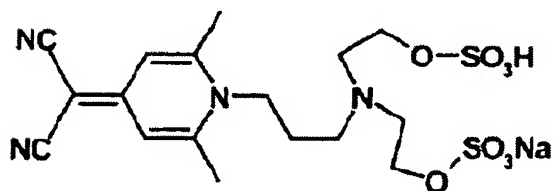
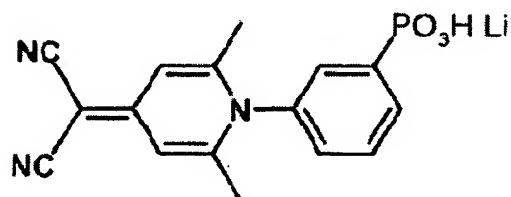
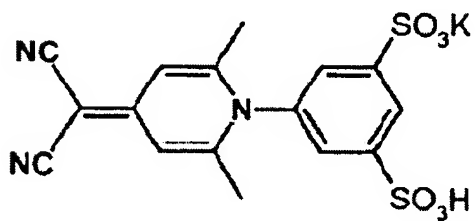
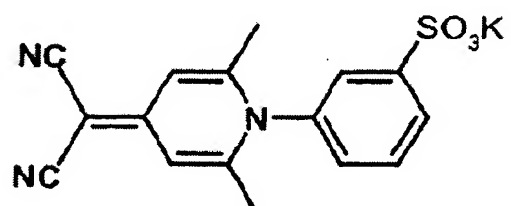
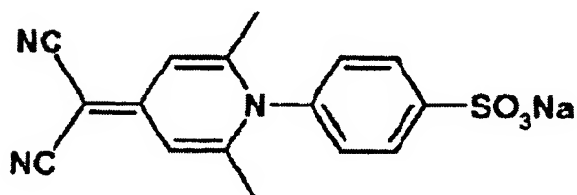
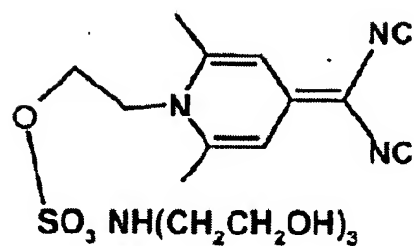
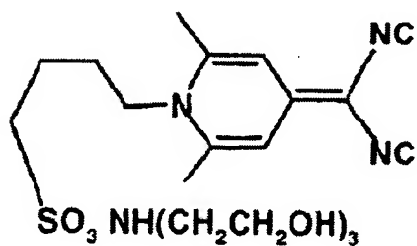
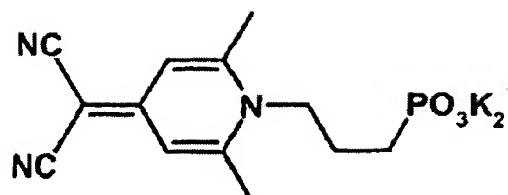
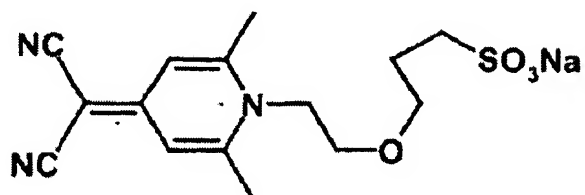
12. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein residue R^3 and R^4 are each hydrogen atoms.

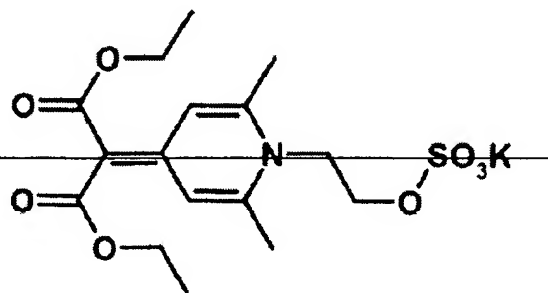
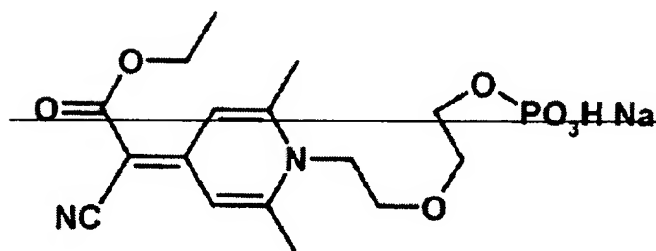
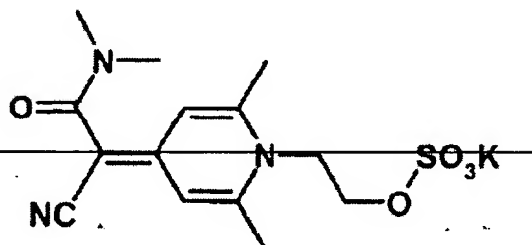
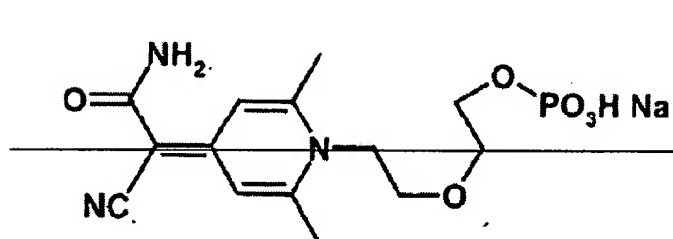
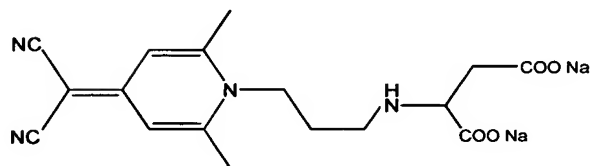
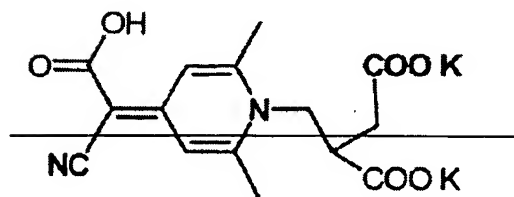
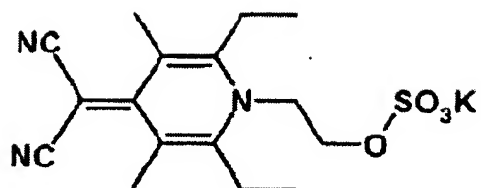
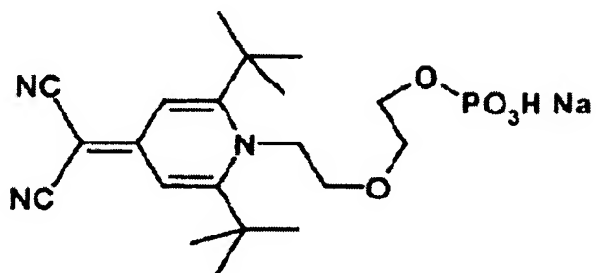
13. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein residues R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl groups.

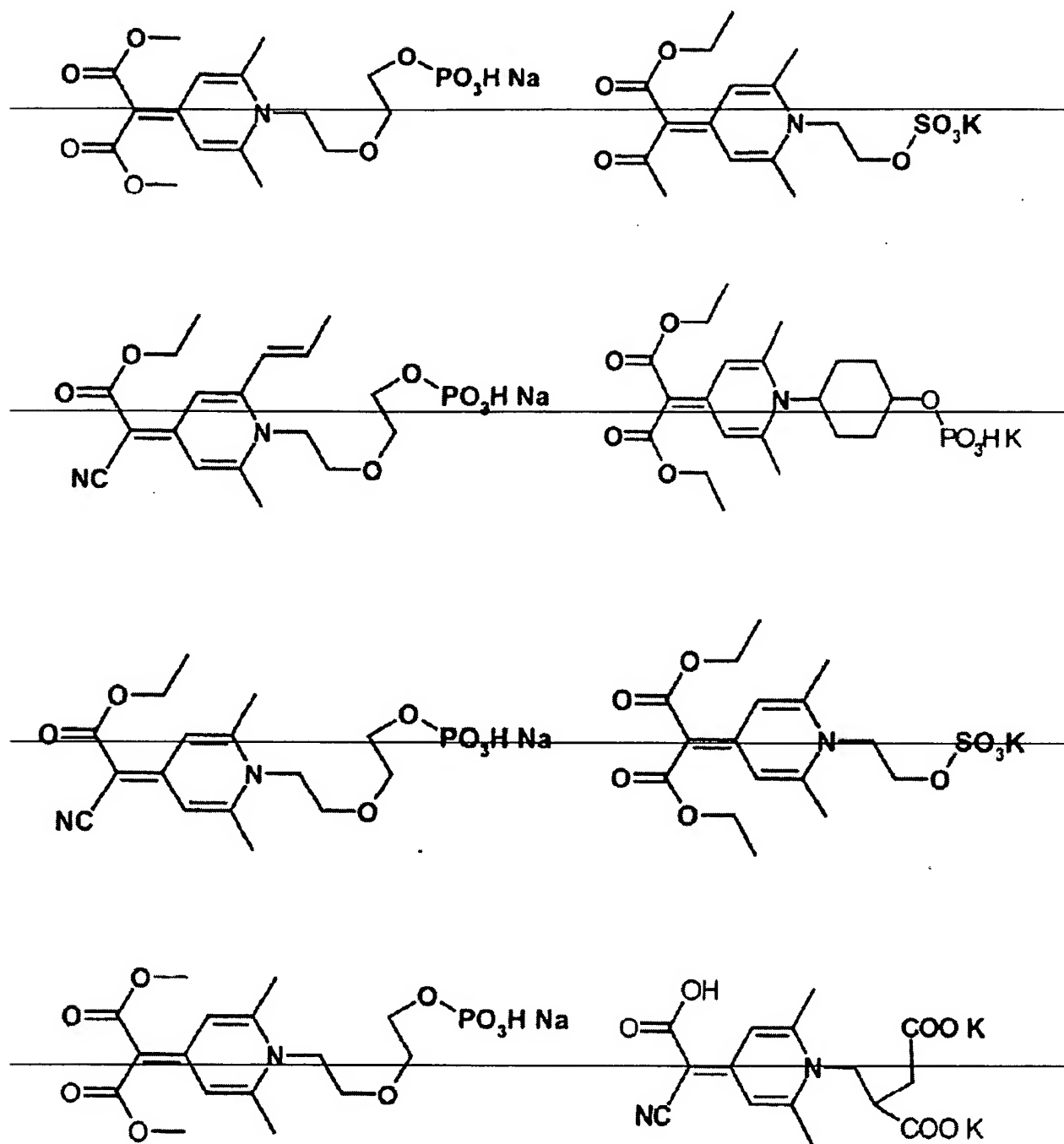
14. (Canceled).

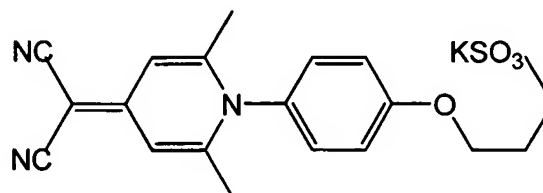
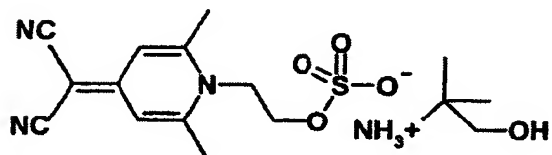
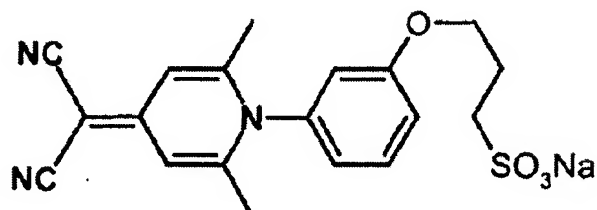
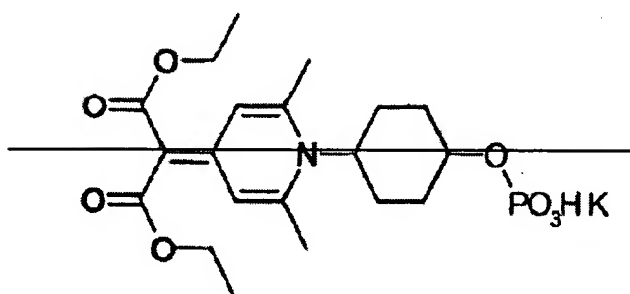
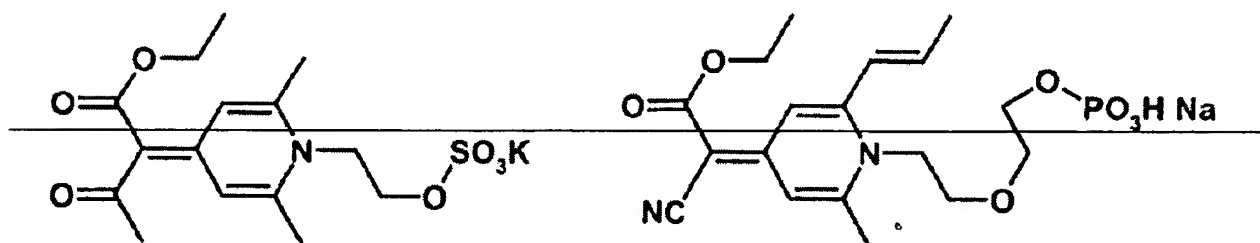
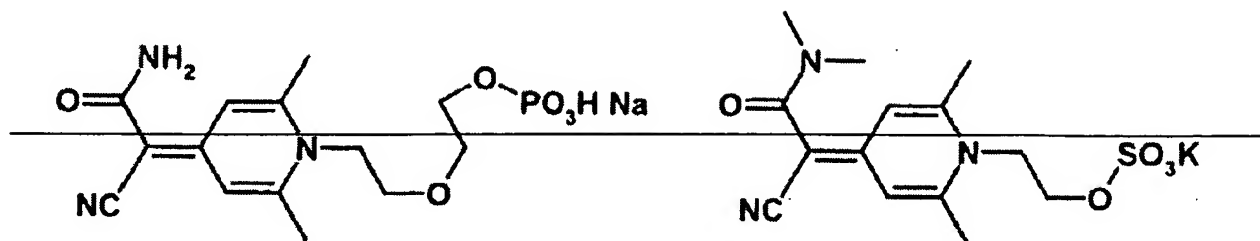
15. (Currently amended): The compound ~~Compound~~ according to claim 1,
which is selected from the group consisting of:

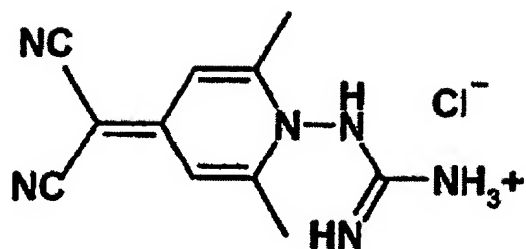
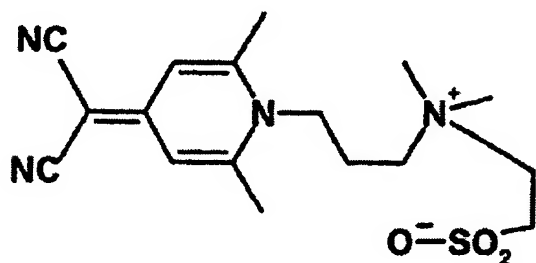




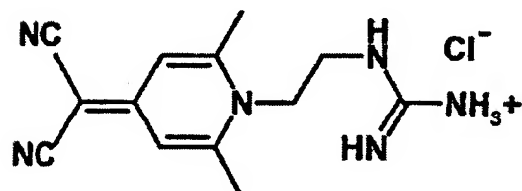








and



16. (Currently amended): An UV-A screening composition comprising a compound according to claim 1.

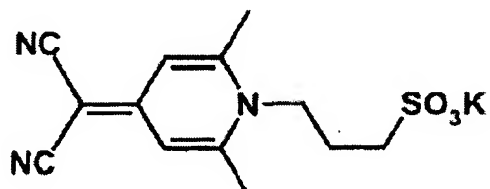
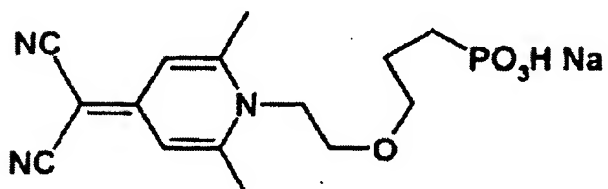
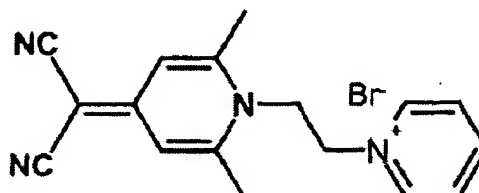
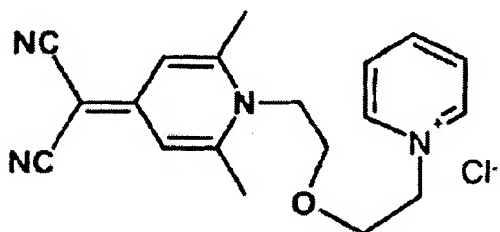
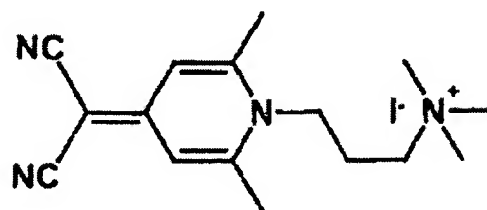
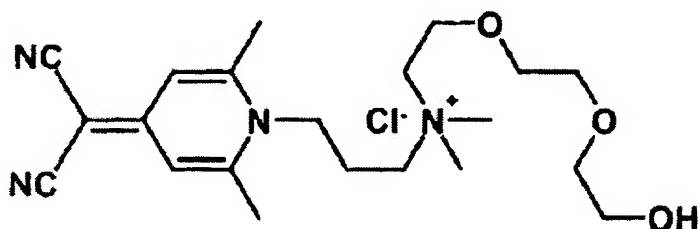
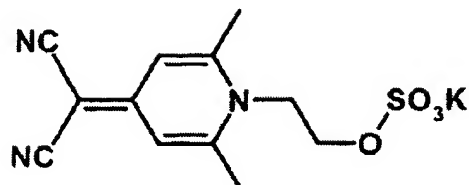
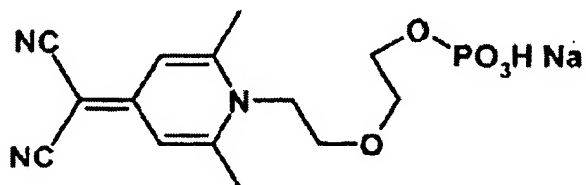
17. (Currently amended): The UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, which is a cosmetic composition for protecting skin or hair against UV-A radiation.

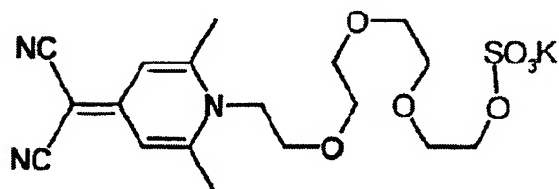
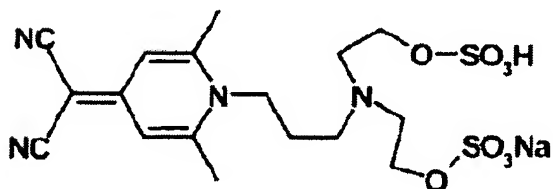
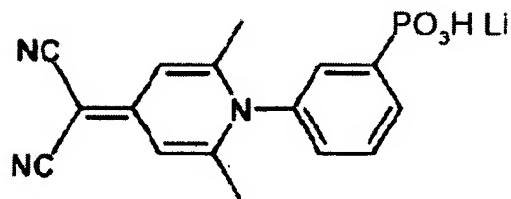
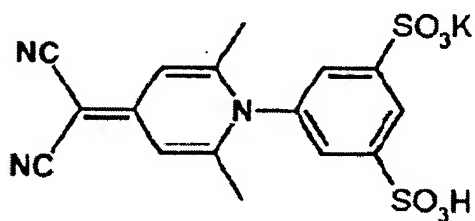
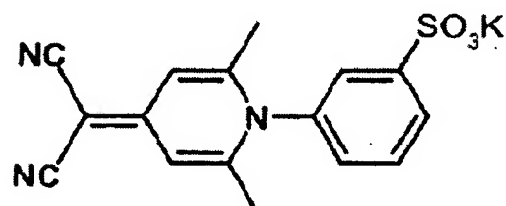
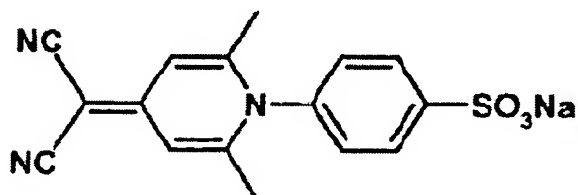
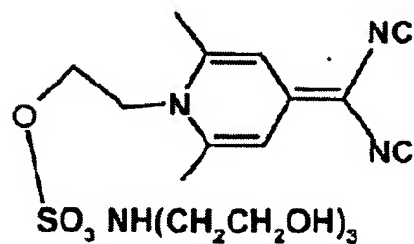
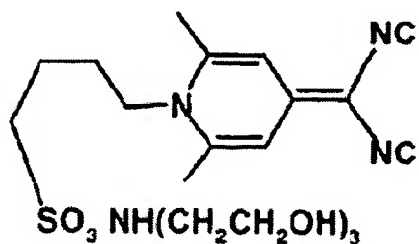
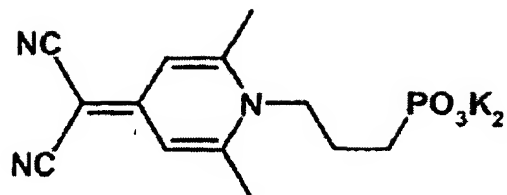
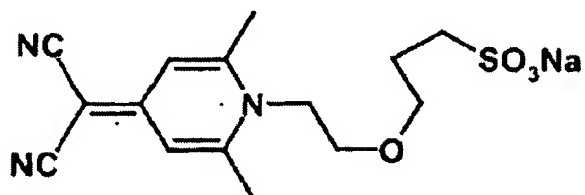
18-22. (Canceled).

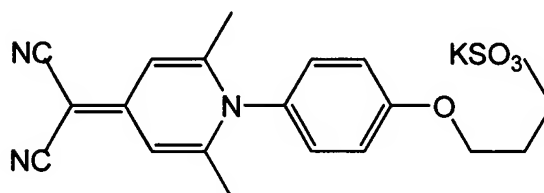
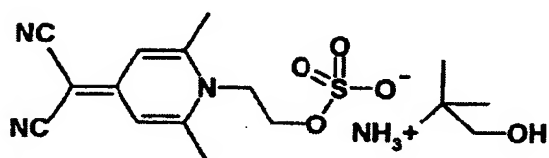
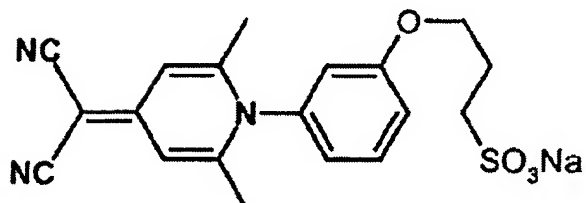
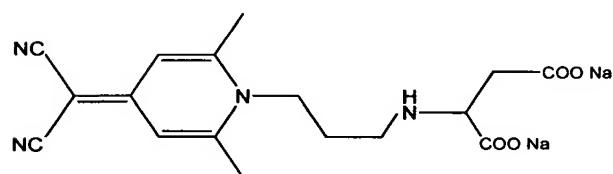
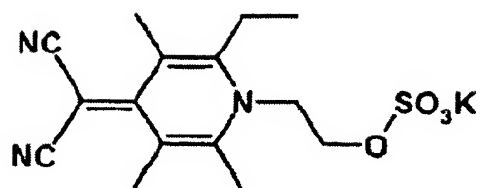
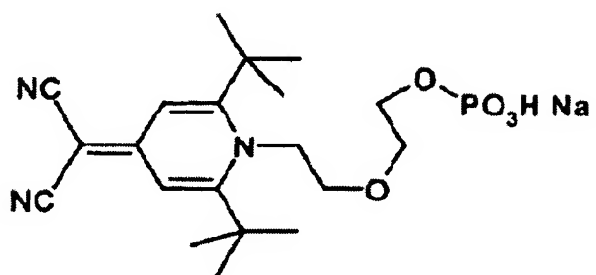
23. (New): The compound according to claim 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium group is a pyridinyl.

24. (New): The compound according to claim 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium group comprises a charged nitrogen which interrupts the alkyl group of the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl.

25. (New): The compound according to claim 15, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:







and

